

Remarks

Claims 21-31, 41, 43-51, 53, 56, and 58-66 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action dated March 1, 2006, the Examiner indicated that applicant's Amendment dated December 10, 2005 was not fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 12, 2005 and was therefore not entered. The claim amendments made herein are made with respect to those claims recited in applicant's Supplemental Response dated July 7, 2005 to which the September 12, 2005 Office Action was responsive.

Claims 21-31, 41-53, 55, 56, and 58-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bigari, U.S. Patent No. 5,010,485 ("Bigari").

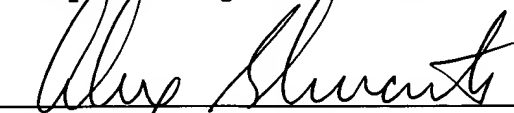
Claims 1-5, 15-20, 32-40, and 54-57 were previously withdrawn from consideration as being directed toward non-elected subject matter. These claims have been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claims 42 and 52 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 21, 23, 24, 26-29, 41, 43, 44, 46-49, 60-62, and 64-66 have been amended to more particularly define the invention and/or for minor clerical purposes. The amendments are fully supported and justified by the specification.

On March 23, 2006 and May 18, 2006 the Examiner and the undersigned attorney conducted a telephonic interview and an in-person interview, respectively. Applicant and the undersigned attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interviews. As indicated by the Examiner's Interview Summary prepared following the May 18, 2006 interview, an agreement was reached whereby the claim amendments included herein would overcome the prior art of record. The amendments would also be deemed to be fully responsive to the September 12, 2005 Office Action.

In view of at least the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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